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THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE.

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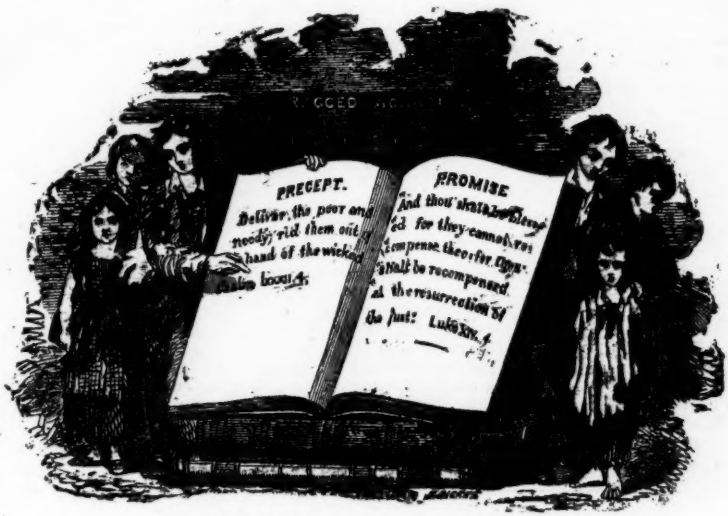

"The word of the Lord endureth for ever."—1 Peter i. 25.

PROFITS DEVOTED TO RAGGED SCHOOLS.

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* * All Communications to be addressed to the Editor, 1, Exeter Hall, London.
* Orders for Advertisements to be sent to Robert K. Burt, Printer, Holborn Hill.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Committee beg to acknowledge with grateful thanks the receipt of a parcel of clothing, &c., &c., from Miss Marian Cust; a portmanteau from Mrs. Craig; a bundle of clothing from the Ladies' Ragged School Working Society, Twickenham, for the Gun Street Schools; a parcel of clothing from Mr. Abraham; two parcels for the Lamb and Flag Schools from Highgate Working Parties, per Miss Bodkin; a parcel of clothing from E. A.; a parcel of clothing, &c., from Miss S. Hawkins; a box of clothing from B. Hopkinson, Esq.; a chest of clothes from Mrs. Ditmas; and a parcel for George Yard Schools, per Miss Bodkin.

Parcels of Left-off Wearing Apparel, for distribution to the Children, and for our Industrial Classes, also Books or Magazines for forming School Libraries, will be thankfully acknowledged by Mr. JOSEPH G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, W.C.

Parcels of waste paper, old magazines, reports, &c., &c., can be made good use of for the benefit of the Society, and will be thankfully acknowledged by Mr. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall.

We are requested to acknowledge the receipt of two parcels of clothing and a box of bonnets for Field Lane Female Refuge, from C. E. S.

CONFERENCE.

The Committee of the Ragged School Union specially invite the Superintendent, Secretary, and a member of the Committee of each of the London Ragged Schools, to a Conference, to be convened in the Hall of the Sunday School Union, 56, Old Bailey, on Thursday, February 15th, 1866. Tea and Coffee will be provided at Six o'clock, and the Conference to commence at Seven o'clock.

Subject—"Scholars' Prizes, their Advantages and Disadvantages," to be introduced in a paper read by Mr. Watts.

SCHOLARS' PRIZE MEETING.

The Meeting for Distribution of Prizes awarded by the Committee of the RAGGED SCHOOL UNION to Scholars for having remained in one place for at least Twelve Months, with good character, will be held in

EXETER HALL STRAND,

On MARCH 19th, 1866.

The Right Hon. the EARL of SHAFTESBURY, K.G., will preside.

The Scholars will begin to assemble at Five o'clock, Tea will be supplied to them at Six o'clock, and the Chair will be taken at Seven.

Tickets are issued from 1, Exeter Hall, Strand.

Further particulars will be announced.

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That the Christian public may *avert* this calamity, and not suffer such a good work to be stayed, is the earnest hope of the Committee.

Donations will be most thankfully received and acknowledged by

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NOTICE.—Mr. GEO. THOS. CONGREVE may be seen at his new residence, COOMBE LODGE, RYE LANE, PECKHAM, on the usual mornings (Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday), until Twelve o'clock.

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President:

The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.

Subscriptions and Donations are earnestly solicited on behalf of this Institution. The operations are very varied, and consist of—

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Sunday and other services in King Edward Street.

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In addition to the inmates belonging to the Refuge Department, the Committee have under their care upwards of 600 poor children, many of whom, but for this Institution, would be growing up in vagrancy and crime. There are Two Schools, the one in Albert Street for infants, and the other in King Edward Street, for boys.

Subscriptions and Donations will be thankfully received by the Hon. Secretary,

MR. H. R. WILLIAMS,

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The Committee gratefully announce the entire success of their former appeal.

They are now desirous of continuing the following operations without incurring any fresh debt: Sunday and Week-day and Night Ragged Schools, Service for Adults, Mothers' Meetings, Penny Bank, Loan Libraries, &c., and an Industrial Refuge for thirty-four destitute boys.

Subscriptions and Donations to assist them in doing this will be thankfully received by Mr. J. G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, or by the Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. E. WAY, 29, Wigmore Street, W.

J. E. EAREE,
BREAKFAST AND TEA CONTRACTOR,
127, HACKNEY ROAD, NEAR SHOREDITCH CHURCH.

J. E. E. respectfully begs to inform the Clergy, Superintendents of Schools, and others who are in the practice of commemorating their Anniversaries, etc., by Public Breakfasts and Tea Meetings, that he has every requisite for such occasions, comprising Tables, Coppers, and China to any extent, in a superior style, at extremely moderate charges.

J. E. E. tenders his sincere thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have hitherto favoured him with their kind patronage, and hopes by strict attention to ensure a continuance of the same; he also begs most respectfully to solicit the favour of their recommendation.

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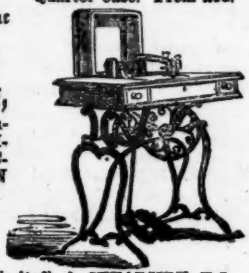

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LONDON FEMALE PREVENTIVE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTION.

PRESIDENT, REV. CANON DALE.

COPY OF RESOLUTION—

"That the Committee desire to review, with thankfulness, God's providential care during the past year in supplying all the necessities of the Institution; and firmly believing in the same watchful care for the future, they therefore instruct the Secretary to admit a larger number of poor young women than in any preceding year, and to co-operate as far as possible in all general movements for the protection of the friendless and reclamation of the fallen."

This has been done.

January 1st, 1864, to November 21st	281
January 1st, 1865, to November 21st	356

A Contribution in aid of the CHRISTMAS COLLECTION is earnestly solicited.

Contributions in Post-office Orders, Cheques, &c., will be thankfully received by

Messrs. BOSANQUET & Co., Bankers, 73, Lombard Street, E.C.
FRANCIS NICHOLLS, Esq. (of the Committee), 14, Old Jewry Chambers, E.C.
Mr. E. W. THOMAS, Secretary, 200, Euston Road, N.W.

NICHOL STREET

Ragged Schools, Missions, and Working Men's Club,

BETHNAL GREEN.

These schools, established in 1843, are situated in one of the most destitute districts of London. Commencing with one room, the work steadily grew, until the one became sixteen; but then dilapidations became so serious, that in very self-defence they had to be given up. Freehold land close by, amply sufficient, was fortunately obtained by the Committee, at a cost of £850, and a portion of the land was covered with plain school buildings, which were opened free of debt. But from the dense population of the district, and the number of the children (about 1,200) crowding into the schools, still further accommodation is absolutely necessary.

But by these efforts, and by raising about £300 a year for the support of the School and Mission, the Committee and friends of the school, who mostly live three miles distant from the scene of their work, and have no special connection with the neighbourhood, have done what they can, and are now compelled to appeal to others for the assistance necessary to complete their plans by covering the vacant piece of land in their possession.

In this the Committee have the cordial approval and assistance of Lord Shaftesbury and the Rector of Bethnal Green.

Of the one thousand pounds asked for, half has been already obtained, but five hundred pounds are still required, and the Committee are very anxious to open the Schools next March, free of debt, and thus claim the grant promised by the Ragged School Union.

Donations will be thankfully received by Mr. GENT, Secretary, Ragged School Union, Exeter Hall; or by

HENRY SPICER, Jun.,
68, Upper Thames Street, E.C.

Papers, Original and Selected.

OLD TEACHERS AND OLD SCHOLARS.

LAMBETH AND LAMB AND FLAG SCHOOLS.

"OUT of sight, out of mind," is an old adage, and in this world of ours must always be applicable to a large portion of its people. The active duties of the present, condensed as they are by steam and electricity, come crowding in such continuous succession, that the time, attention, thoughts, and powers of the active workers of society are all so absorbed as to leave none for the past, and by far too little for the future. There is not less of grateful feeling in the world than formerly, but it is expressed in a somewhat different manner. There is not less of friendly recognition than formerly, but new modes are being adopted to express it. Times were when, writing a letter to a friend, a sheet of the largest foolscap that the old single postage would frank was needful to express all we had to say; but now how often is the half sheet of note paper folded found quite sufficient? But then it must not be forgotten that where we formerly wrote one letter we now send a score. Thanks to Sir Rowland Hill and his penny post for enabling us to do so. And where we had each many opportunities of seeing a friend, we have now to make one opportunity serve for seeing many friends, otherwise we should be left far behind in the onward and rapid course of the times in which we live.

Ragged Schools are no exception to this influence; and yet old friends are not forgotten, as we shall show. These friends are watchful as well as prayerful, that the power of these institutions for good may keep pace with the necessities that are found to exist for them. Hence their ramifications throughout the country, the great diversity of their operations, and the success that God has granted them. Among the most recent of new efforts put forth are those of looking after old friends and workers, and after those who had in former years been benefited by these schools. Old Scholars' Meetings are being held by Ragged Schools, to which are invited the scholars of past years. One of these meetings was held, for the first time, in the Lamb and Flag Ragged Schools, Clerkenwell,

The invitations were extended to all whose addresses could be ascertained, and accepted by 100 young people, who assembled in the school-room, on Monday, January 15th. Their behaviour was respectful; their attire suitable to their position; and their general aspect was that of plain, hard-working people. After tea, they assembled in the lower room, when a few practical addresses were delivered. Mr. Watts presided. Mr. Mounstephen spoke to the young people on "Forbearance and Control of Temper." Mr. Best addressed them on "The Past as it stands in relation to the Present," and touched on the great improvements of the age. And Mr. Gent chose for his subject, "A Happy Home, and what makes one." Other addresses followed; and at the close of the meeting it was ascertained that twenty-one of the young women had become wives, and twelve of those present had become members of Christian churches. So encouraging in every respect was the meeting that it is hoped that it is only the first of a long and useful series.

Another new and useful effort recently adopted is that of trying to bring together those who in former years had been the friends and teachers of the school. The Lambeth Ragged School, in Doughty Street, at the close of last year, with great success, tried the experiment of bringing old friends together again, to spend an evening, if only one, with those who are now carrying on the work. The invitations were sent to 156 friends, which were accepted by sixty-one, who were able to be present at *the first Old Teachers' Meeting* that has, perhaps, ever been held—at all events, in connection with Ragged Schools. The company assembled for tea, after which the following hymn was sung, composed for the occasion by Mr. Miller, the valued Superintendent of the Schools.

Welcome, loved ones, here once more,
Where we oft have met before;
Parted, but united still,
To know and do our Father's will.

Fellow-labourers are we,
Members of one family,
In the vineyard of the Lord,
Winning souls for our reward.

Welcome, loved ones, here again,
We are evermore the same:
In this old familiar spot
Ours has been a happy lot,

Fellow-travellers we are,
Absent some and distant far;
Each, though journeying on the road,
Leading to our blest abode.

Welcome, loved ones, here to-day,
Where we oft have met to pray;
Let our union then be sweet,
Like to that when Christians meet.

Fellow-sinners, every one,
Saved alone through Christ the Son;
May we reach the heavenly shore,
There to meet and part no more.

Some time, after the singing of this hymn, was spent in supplicating the Divine blessing on all present and absent friends, and then the Superintendent, Mr. Miller, read the following address:—

"My Dear Fellow-teachers,—It is now thirteen years and four months since I first undertook the office I now hold. I had previously been asked to occupy the same in a Sunday School, but did not see my way clear; a temperament, of which some among you have seen specimens in public, seemed invariably to remind me it was not quite in accordance with the sedateness of the office; but when this position presented itself, the way seemed opened, for I felt it to be one for which I was somewhat qualified, the Ragged and the Sunday School class being at that period more widely separated than they are now. How I have discharged my office among you it is not for me to ask; your annual vote and the gathering to-night is the best proof that it has not been altogether unacceptable to you, and I trust it has not been in vain to the Lord.

"During that period many changes have taken place, and but few are left now who commenced with me then. It is pleasant, however, to think that even some are still labouring in the vineyard, and notwithstanding all my regard for every teacher, the old familiar faces of the veterans seem to link the present with the past, and remind me that I am not isolated. I have always felt it a great cause of thankfulness to Almighty God, that amid all these changes the school has never slackened for want of teachers. I have, of course, been occasionally inconvenienced, but not to the extent to compel me to say, 'The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.' One hundred and fifty teachers have been permitted to publish the glad tidings of salvation in these schools during that time, of various denominations, yet one and all are working for their Master, anxiously desiring to win souls to Christ. Of this number, one hundred and twelve have left, and thirty-eight now remain. Twelve are abroad in Australia, India, New Zealand, Russia, Germany, &c., with whom occasionally I still carry on a correspondence; seventy-three are scattered over London and the towns and villages of England, engaged in scholastic or commercial duties; twenty-five are married, and sixteen I have lost sight of altogether, and am unable to discover their present abodes. With the exception of the last sixteen, I believe all have been invited to be present with us this evening. Some, I regret to say, have allowed the invitation to pass by unnoticed and unanswered. I will not think it is because they have lost all interest

in Ragged School work, and I dare not think it is because they have grown cold about the salvation of the outcast and the destitute; it must be that other engagements so press upon them that they omitted to think of this, and therefore failed to write. It will, however, I am sure, be interesting to you if I read a few extracts from the answers I have received.

"Mr. NOAH BAILEY, Plymouth, writes:—

"'I should like once more to meet with my dear old friends at Lambeth Ragged School, and I pray heaven will smile upon your meeting.'

"Mr. TURNBULL, South Shields, writes:—

"'To have the whole or a greater part of the teachers brought together must be a very cheering thing, and those teachers who are prevented from joining them must evidently lose a treat. I shall consider it a great favour conferred on me if you can send me any account of the proceedings after they are terminated.'

"Mr. JOHN HOLT, Halifax:—

"'I was glad to hear that you intended to have a meeting of the past and present teachers of the Lambeth Ragged School, which I am sure will encourage the teachers to work more ardently.'

"Mrs. CALDER, late Miss SKEEN, Hastings:—

"'Few of the teachers with you now will remember me, in all probability; but should there be any at the school who were fellow-labourers with me, will you kindly remember me to them, and say I often think of the time when we worked together, and the happiness we enjoyed trying to do some good there.'

"Mr. FOSTER, Bristol:—

"'I always look back with pleasure to the time when I was a teacher in your school, and shall always feel indebted to you for first bringing me out.'

"Mrs. SMITH, late Miss WESTBROOK:—

"'Wherever I go, the Lambeth Ragged School will never fail to have an interest in my thoughts.'

"Miss JOHNSTON, New Zealand:—

"'Amidst all the excitement, I do hope that you may see fruits at Lambeth; you have laboured many years, may your labour be rewarded with many souls who may be converted there.'

"Mr. ROGERS, writing from Umritsur, India, says:—

"'I know that of all my London recollections there is not one I look back with more real joy upon than my Lambeth Ragged School associations.'

"Mr. WINIFRED ROSE, Beccles:—

"'Though absent in body, I shall be present with you in mind, and may God in his rich mercy grant you all a plenteous blessing.'

"Mr. E. W. BEGNIE, Bocking, Essex:—

"'That motto in the upper room, "Be not weary in well-doing, for in due season ye shall reap if ye faint not," often recurs to my mind, bringing with it that blessed influence which nerves me for my work. Those amongst you, my friends, who feel discouraged, look at it, think of it, and remember that it is a pledge promise of One who cannot lie, who will fulfil His word to those who believe.

"'I feel quite confident there will be a rich harvest of souls gathered from the Lambeth Ragged Schools.'

"While thus recording the feelings and stating present homes of some, I have to chronicle the fact of but three only having been called to their final home, but neither can be said to have died in harness.

"The first, Mr. Smith, familiarly spoken of as good old Mr. Smith, who, though advanced in life and suffering from shortness of breath, thought it no trouble to walk

all the way from North End, Fulham, to address the schools, when no longer able to conduct his class.

"The second, Mrs. Hannah Meredith, known to but very few now present even, mother-in-law to F. Doulton, Esq., M.P., the first superintendent of these schools. From the foundation of them she was one of their earliest and warmest supporters, and remained actively employed in the Girls' School until age and infirmity precluded the possibility of any longer exerting herself. She died at an advanced age, ripe in years and ripe for glory.

"The third, Miss Negus, who had long been associated with us, died, it may be said, almost on the eve of this gathering, for the day of our treat to the children was the day of her funeral. I visited her many times, but the deceptive nature of her complaint (consumption) led her to think she was not so near death, and the distressing cough she suffered from prevented the possibility of holding much—indeed, at times, any—conversation; therefore I am unable to tell you her state of mind and views in the prospect of eternity. I only rest in hope that, as her walk and conversation had always been consistent, and her faith and trust in Christ unshaken, that she was in the 'enjoyment of that peace which passeth all understanding.' May we, however, learn by this lesson (if not already learnt) that it is not how we die, but how we live, for which we shall be judged. The nature of the complaint, or the temper and disposition of the sufferer, will often make a dying-bed seem peaceful when there is no real peace. And also, let us be careful as workers that we are not thereby puffed up with vain conceit; there is a possibility of holding the lamp to others and yet grope on in darkness ourselves. Let us each, then, be more in earnest than we have ever been.

'So let our lips and lives confess
The Holy doctrine we profess;'

that, at the last, it may be said to each and all: 'Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.'

"During this period of thirteen years and four months, if we take the average of one year, there has been the almost incredible number of 125,559 boys and 168,746 girls, making a total of 294,305 children under our care. Think of this, ponder over it, imagine it if you can; realize it if you will, that every one of these must pass into eternity, either in heaven, or in that place where the worm never dieth and the fire is never quenched. Blessed be God for your encouragement, my dear teachers. I have to tell you the fact, that whenever we have known of the illness of a child, and have had opportunities of visiting them, and that illness has resulted in death, they have borne testimony to the truthfulness of our teaching, and I believe have passed to glory. That there is much to contend with, much to try faith and patience, I need not remind you. But we must not stand still; we must go on remembering that 'they that are whole need not the physician, but they that are sick;' and these poor children are indeed sick, and need our care. Oh may we then who still work, work with renewed energy; and we ask of you who have left us, to aid us by your prayers, that we may lead them to the great Physician of souls. Feeling the necessity of still further exertion and care for them, and noticing the mass who run wild about the streets on the Sunday, we have established Special Services for the young on the Sunday afternoon. The effort is but yet in its infancy, but we look for great results as it becomes organized and established, as we indulge the hope that many will be induced to attend who would not if we had an afternoon school, for they would then be under the impression that they had been to school once, and that was all that could be expected of them. In addition to these efforts, you will, I

know, be glad to hear that our Prayer Meeting is as well attended as heretofore, to the comfort and spiritual benefit alike of both teachers and scholars; scarcely an absent teacher ever writing without alluding to the enjoyment of these meetings in the upper room.

"Mr. Nicholls continues at his post in the Girls' School as faithfully and affectionately as ever. Mr. Salter, L.C.M., and Mr. Vardell, L.C.M., conduct the week-night Bible Classes with much benefit. Miss Buttress has a large and well-attended class on Sunday evenings of girls and young women, who had formerly been scholars in the school. Mr. Foster also superintends the Young Men's Bible Class, and still conducts the Band, which, though it has ceased to be as attractive, as a novelty, as when originally established, has been productive of much good in training boys from the streets, and inducing them to attend our prayer and other meetings. Many of them have grown to manhood; some have taken to themselves wives and settled; but all feel somehow as still belonging to the Band, and look upon it and speak of it with pleasure, as having been of great benefit to them in training them in the way they should go.

"The reception-room, as it is called, is under the care of Mr. Bensey, to whom great praise is due for the regularity of his attendance and earnestness in the work; for it must be admitted by one and all that it is the most trying department of our Sunday evening labour.

"The Infant Class in the Girls' School-room is still under the management of Mr. John Coper, who continues to direct it with that tact and style that are peculiarly his own.

"The Infant Class on the boys' side flagged for some time since the unavoidable resignation of Mr. Cheshire and Mr. Jones. This grieved me, because it is a most important part of our work; but I hope it will now revive again under the care of Mr. Bird. The other classes in both schools are occupied by faithful loving teachers, and a spirit of harmony and love pervades and leavens the whole. Nor must I omit to mention what you will be all pleased to hear, that our friend Stoneman continues at his post with the same frankness and goodwill for which he was always distinguished.

"The entertainments designed by myself are as popular as ever; but having realized a much larger sum by them for the benefit of Ragged Schools than I ever anticipated, and feeling they have answered the purpose for which I originally designed them—that is, as a suggestion of a better style of entertainment for the young—I now do not give them so often as formerly the pressing calls would tempt me.

"Our Children's Treats we have not been able to give annually, for want of funds, but we gave one this year with great success, his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury having kindly granted the use of his grounds. Our teachers' pic-nics I need scarcely allude to; whoever has participated in them must admit they have always been seasons of rational but real enjoyment; and it is to be regretted that a larger number do not avail themselves of the opportunity.

"And now, my dear teachers, having summed up thus briefly a short account of our past and present doings, it remains but for me affectionately to commend you to the care and keeping of our Heavenly Father, and to indulge a prayerful hope that this meeting will be long remembered by all of us, and its influence have a lasting effect upon our lives. If any, either past or present, are lacking the energy and interest they once felt in spiritual things, may they resolve this night to commence afresh; if any, while teaching others, feel the burthen of sin heavy in their own hearts, may they from this night be more earnest in prayer to overcome the tempter, that finally they may come off more than conquerors, through Him who died for them. And may the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of Him and of his Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Another hymn, composed by Mr. J. T. Bates, was sung :—

O God, thy Holy Spirit send
To fill our hearts with love;
And turn our thoughts from things on earth
To heavenly themes above.

Lord, give us all pure hearts to pray,
And faithful tongues to praise;
And aid us with thy mighty power
While we our voices raise.

Thy grace is free to every soul,
Vast as the boundless wave;
Through Jesus, thy eternal Son,
Those now that come can have.

Oh! grant us what we ask of thee,
If righteous in thy sight;
And send thy blessing on the prayers
We raise to thee this night.

May all within this sacred place
Be filled with love divine;
And give their hearts without delay
To be for ever thine.

The friends were addressed by Mr. Nicholls, the Superintendent of the Girls' Department, who said he—

"Congratulated the teachers upon the aspect of the meeting, gathered as they were from all parts, and engaged, doubtless as they all were, in the Lord's work, and expressed the joy so many felt in meeting so many familiar faces, especially those who, like himself, had been labouring so long in the schools. He felt it did even good to look one another in the face, and feel the hearty shake of the hand. He then said, though they could not but regret the absence of many, yet just the right number had assembled, as it enabled them to meet in the upper room, associated as it was by so many hallowed recollections of the past, and referred to the united spirit that animated all the teachers, and rendered them thereby so qualified for their work; to this, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, was to be attributed the fact of so many children having found the Saviour through coming to the schools."

Mr. Salter, the Missionary of the district, was requested to write out the remarks he made, which he did, as follows :—

"*November 4th*, 1865.

"DEAR MR. MILLER,

"According to your wish, I have endeavoured to collect the few thoughts to which I gave utterance on the evening of our meeting at the Ragged School. I began by saying that if you could not trust yourself to speak, it was much the same with me, for what you had read and what Mr. Nicholls had said caused emotions in my mind both solemn and pleasing, and carried me back to a more distant period in connection with the Lambeth Ragged School than what had been referred to by those

who preceded me. I had thought of the time when I had to influence the minds of gentlemen in the locality, and convince them of the necessity there was for a Ragged School, but was long before I could do so; and then the picture came before my mind of some dozen gentlemen, whom eventually I succeeded in getting together, seated in one corner of the old Welsh Chapel in Palace Yard, to consider the matter, and who, after deliberation, decided that it should be tried. Some of these have since that time gone to receive their reward in the better land above, and I remembered amongst their number my late respected superintendents, Mr. J. Nash and Mr. R. Nash, also the Rev. W. Fraser, Mr. J. Doulton, and our much-revered friend Mr. Watts. These were amongst my helpers at that time; and from the time of that meeting the school was commenced, at first on Sunday evenings only; and with very little assistance I endeavoured to carry it on for about three years, during which we commenced an Evening School for girls, three evenings in the week. And also during that time, by the kindness of a brother missionary—Roger Miller, of Broadwall, who several years ago was killed in a railway-train, while journeying to Wolverhampton*—I was introduced to the Right Hon. Lord Ashley, who, having some money for Ragged Schools, and hearing of what I was doing in my district, kindly permitted me to converse with him about the matter; and the result of my interview was an arrangement for his lordship to visit my district with me. He came at the time appointed, and went into several houses with me; and afterwards I introduced him to my superintendent, Mr. J. Nash, and at his wharf he witnessed the launching of a barge, which attracted the children of the district, and he thereby had a good opportunity of forming an opinion, which, when done, led him to exclaim, 'I see there are enough children here to fill a dozen Ragged Schools.' We then adjourned to Mr. Doulton's house, where several gentlemen were assembled to meet his lordship, and where, after consultation, a committee was formed, his lordship kindly agreeing to be the president. He then kindly gave us the money referred to; and we from that time commenced the Week Evening School for boys, three evenings a week. After this our present Member of Parliament, F. Doulton, Esq., became interested in the school, and succeeded to the superintendence, which position he held for about seven years. The schools continued to prosper, and it was pleasing to see their growth and increase; and all the rooms in the old building being overcrowded, it was thought desirable to fit up and occupy the railway-arch which crosses William Street, which was also filled. I then referred to the pleasing circumstance which brought the schools under the notice of the late Mrs. Beaufoy—namely, by Miss Stickley taking some old books to repair—and the happy result—namely, the raising of our present noble building—and the continued increase and prosperity of the schools during the thirteen years they have been under your very efficient superintendence, and the great pleasure it gave me to attend such a meeting as the present—such a one, I thought, as had not been held anywhere before; and the pleasure was indeed great in contemplating the vast number of children who had passed through the school. The seed of the kingdom, the word of life, having thus been sown in the youthful mind of so many, and watered by the teachers' prayers, who can tell the glorious result which, although it may be hid from us at the present, will be made to appear at the great day? And then I thought how solemn the reflection,—It is possible that some who have thus been privileged to be teachers of others, and instrumental in guiding others to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, may themselves be without possession of the grace of God! And while in the judgment of charity we would fain hope all here present are partakers of that saving grace, it behoves us to examine ourselves. May we be thus led to look into our own hearts, and may the Holy Spirit help us to know the truth, that if it

* [He was killed at Wolverton Station while on a journey to Manchester to bury his mother in the year 1847.—Ed.]

should be wrong with any now, while there is time, we may seek to have it made right; and how delightful the thought, that happy as our meeting is at this time, how much more glorious will be our meeting together with those who have gone before, and with the great multitude gathered out of all nations and kindreds, tongues and peoples, and to surround the Throne of God and the Lamb, and praise him there for ever and ever.

"And then wishing our dear Superintendent, Mr. W. H. Miller, much health and strength of body and mind to carry on the great work for many years, if according to the will of our Heavenly Father, I believe I brought my few remarks to a close."

Addresses were delivered by other friends, and the happy and useful meeting was brought to a close by singing a hymn, also composed for this occasion by Mrs. Bessie Jones:—

Though for years we have been parted,
Pleasant 'tis again to meet;
Bringing each a free-will offering
Laid upon the mercy-seat.

Let us raise our Ebenezer
For thy kind protecting care:
Earnest prayer in mercy answered,
Spared to work from year to year.

Warriors for thy cross appearing,
Each arrayed in armour bright;
Fighting for the same blest kingdom
In that spotless world of light.

Angels lend your loudest praises,
Help, ye sweet angelic choirs;
Sweetly strike thy softest music,
While our praise to heaven aspires.

Missing ones, we soon will greet you,
Round the pearly gates of home;
Thronging each its sacred portals,
May we meet around the throne.

We have recorded these details thus fully, not because they are original only, but because we think they may be suggestive to other friends, and may, we sincerely hope, induce them to go and try something of a similar kind in connection with their own schools. Such meetings may be the means of reviving the fire of old love for the work, when it has been allowed almost to die out, and we shall again prove the truth of Solomon's proverb, as "iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

THE MANCHESTER MODE OF DEALING WITH THE RAGGED CLASS;

OR, THE

EDUCATION-AID SOCIETY FOR MANCHESTER AND SALFORD.

THE operations of the above Society are of so important and interesting a character, and its history and proceedings are so encouraging and suggestive, that we venture to solicit the special attention of our readers to its objects, plans, and successes. For upwards of ten years a few gentlemen in Manchester had privately subscribed funds for the purpose of assisting poor parents to educate their children, the selection of the children being chiefly confided to the City Missionaries.

About two years since a "*suggested scheme*," based upon this movement, was brought before a meeting, and a committee was appointed to form rules and put them into operation. The *object* is "the general education of the children of the poor upon such principles as may unite members of all religious denominations in a common effort." This object the Society seeks to attain—"1st., in respect to existing schools, by paying for the children of poor parents so much of the school fees as shall be needful; and 2ndly, by aiding (and, if it should be deemed advisable, by establishing) free schools for children of parents who are unable to pay any portion of the fees." Up to the date of the published documents of the Society, the former of these only has been attempted. A list of schools has been prepared by the committee, to which children may be sent, and the *principles* adopted are identical with those adopted by the Committee of Council on Education. All schools, whether in receipt of annual Government grants or otherwise, provided they are in "connection with some recognised religious denomination," or "in which, besides secular instruction, the Scriptures are read daily from the authorized version," provided also that their efficiency be satisfactory to the committee, are entitled to be placed upon the list to which scholars may be sent. With this limitation, *the choice of schools rests with the parents.* Whether the whole or part of the payment is made by the committee is at their own discretion, but no payment is to exceed 4d. per head per week. Forms of application are supplied to subscribers, to managers of those schools on "the list," or otherwise, at the discretion of the committee. These forms have to be

filled up by the parent or guardian of the applicant, stating the number of the family, their weekly earnings, &c. Provision is also made in the rules for a quarterly visitation of every school, and for returns from each of the attendance of those children sent by the Society. The payments are made quarterly. No child is admitted until the circumstances of the case have been inquired into, and its fitness certified to the satisfaction of the committee. The schools upon "the list" of the Society are 103 in number; being about nine-tenths of the schools in Manchester and Salford. There are a few school managers who decline to receive children sent by the Society, in some cases because the schools are already full, and in others probably from the fear that the children of the poorest classes might injure the *morale* of their schools if admitted.

With a basis so broad, under regulations so apparently complete, and among a population so vast, it is gratifying to find that, so far as the experiment has been reported on, the success has been signal. Moreover, the recorded facts brought out by the proceedings are instructive.

One of the first difficulties to be overcome was that of getting applications from parents for the aid which the Society had to give. This difficulty has been overcome, and it is found that the forms of application now reach the class for whom they are intended. The following extract from a Report published early in the year will illustrate the working of the Society:—

"Your committee commenced with great caution, and preferred to postpone extensive operations until experience had been gained, rather than to begin too hastily. They are now satisfied that much good may be accomplished by the Society, and a brief account of what has been done will best show the sphere of operations to which it may apply itself beneficially. As a complete account of the children sent to school is only obtained at the termination of each quarter, it will be necessary to give the statistics of the quarter ending with Christmas. For that quarter, 90 schools sent in their accounts, having on their registers 4,978 children sent by the Society. Of this number, 3,701 had been in actual attendance. The quarter's school charges to the Society amounted to £178 14s., and the parents had paid in addition £67 13s. The total number of half-day attendances made during the quarter was 238,500. For each full week's attendance charged, consisting of 10 half-days per week, the average of attendances made was 8·7 (87 per cent.).

The average cost to the Society of each child, for each week's attendance, was 1·597d. (a trifle over 1½d.). The attendances actually made by the children were 70 per cent. of those which were possible by attending every half-day from the time of the issuing of the grants. The accounts given of the conduct and attendance by the masters and mistresses in their quarterly reports, show that there is no ground for sweeping conclusions as to the moral habits of the parents. They vary as widely in character as the members of any other class of society. Some children attend with almost perfect punctuality, and give the highest satisfaction to their teachers. There are many who have attended every half-day the school has been open, during the twelve weeks of the quarter, and others, in the same schools, have been very irregular.

"The Society keeps an account of certain leading facts which indicate the position of each family assisted, and among these facts are the number of persons in each family, and the weekly earnings. For the purpose of arriving at an approximate estimate of the average earnings of the families receiving aid from the Society, the children attending ten schools in Salford, Pendleton, Hulme, Deansgate, Red Bank, Ancoats, Miller Street, and Chorlton, have been selected. There are 238 families that have been thus taken, just as they occurred in the order of time. These 238 families consist of 1,400 persons, which is an average of six persons to the family, showing that generally those who have sought aid are parents of large families. The total weekly earnings of these 238 families is £146 12s., which, if divided among 1,400 persons, deducting 6d. per week for each person for rent, will give nineteenpence per head per week for food, clothing, fuel, and all other necessaries of life. This is below the amount per head required for nutritious food alone, as recently stated by Dr. Edwin Smith. School fees would seem to be impossible out of this small amount. Yet something is paid for schooling by these parents, in addition to the grants made by this Society.

"Another circumstance which must have often struck the members of the sub-committee who decide upon applications made, is the large number of widows for whose children aid is required. Of 722 families applying, taken indiscriminately from the visitors' book, 114 were those of widows left with their children; and these are not paupers, but women struggling to maintain their own families by work. Thus more than 15 per cent. of the applications appear to be from widows. There is, unhappily, an almost equal number of cases of women

deserted by their husbands. There are a few cases in which both parents are dead, and the children are living with other relatives or friends. There are crippled, infirm, and sick fathers, and distress in every shape. Family wrecks are thickly strewn in the crowded quarters—many of them the results of improvidence and vice, doubtless; but how many of them, also, resulting from ignorance which the sufferers never had the means to escape from?

"Two or three schools, in different parts of Manchester, have been commenced specially with the object of gathering and instructing the neglected children of parents who are indifferent about education. One is in the Rev. Canon Richson's parish of St. Andrew's, Ancoats, and is under the management of a committee of ladies, who keep up the attendance by continual household visitation. Each child pays 1d. per week; the Education-Aid Society assists, and all deficiencies in funds are made up by one lady, who takes an active interest in the school. Another school is in Sharp Street, Angel Meadow, and is managed and supported by a few gentlemen. A daily dinner is given to the children of this school, and care is taken that none but the children of the poorest are admitted. Each child pays 1d. per week, and the Education-Aid Society assists. This school has 70 children at present in attendance, and its supporters are desirous of establishing another similar school; but for this purpose require increased subscriptions.

"The duty of visiting the schools to which scholars are sent by the Society, has been performed by 17 of the members of the committee, who have divided the work amongst them. Eighty-six schools have thus been visited. In a few instances the required statistics have not been obtained; but the following are some of the particulars ascertained. In 83 of the schools there is a total of 31,633 scholars on the registers, and an average attendance of 22,417. The children sent by this Society were, in most cases, called out from the classes, and 1,219 of them were seen by the visitors. In all cases they were considered likely to be of the class requiring aid—judging from their appearance. Some few of the schools are already well filled, but more often the buildings would accommodate many more children. From the visitors' reports it is found that 76 of them will easily hold 9,671 more scholars than are at present in average attendance. It would be needful, however, in most instances, with an increased number of scholars, to have additional teachers. Some schools are, at present, deficient in

teaching-power. It is quite possible for a single teacher to drill 150 or 200 scholars into respectable discipline, but he cannot possibly give the necessary attention to each child.

"On the whole, your committee believe themselves fully justified in stating that the Society has already gained a position of great usefulness, and that it promises to become of still greater value in the promotion of popular education. It is able to give aid and encouragement in many ways, directly and indirectly, to benevolent effort in this direction. It has already won the confidence of all denominations; and in this fact lies its chief value. To its direct work of sending poor children to school there is at present no practical limit, except the exhaustion of its funds, or the want of more schools. It would be easy to increase the number of applications for aid. At present each quarter is adding considerably to the expenditure, which, for the June quarter, will probably reach £350. Although a considerable balance therefore remains in the treasurer's hands, the growing work of the Society will rapidly absorb it. Supposing the grants issued for the next year to increase in the same proportion as during the two quarters which are past, the expenditure will, at the next annual meeting, be at the rate of more than £2,000 per annum. And with a constantly growing number of children, largely increased subscriptions will be needed."

We submit that this scheme does honour to the practical wisdom and true philanthropy of its promoters; nor less to the liberality of their contributions. The scale of these may be gathered from the fact that in the list of *annual* subscribers, there are twenty-eight of £25 each, and thirty-five of £10 each.

Why should not some such plan be adopted in other large towns and cities? It cannot be concealed that the condition of the uneducated masses of our great towns is the heaviest burden and the greatest reproach to England; and the ease with which this burden might be lessened, and this reproach removed, renders the disgrace the more bitter and the misery the more pungent.—*Educational Record.*

A FLAG OF DISTRESS;

OR, THE

LAMB AND FLAG AT ITS MATURITY IN DIFFICULTIES.

TWENTY-ONE YEARS is a period of time inseparably connected with the idea of maturity. At the age of twenty-one the heir receives the congratulations of his father's tenants, who generally look with no small degree of pride upon the manly form of their future landlord, and freely discuss those trivial incidents in his brief history that seem to betoken a future career of usefulness. At twenty-one the young mechanic completes the term of his apprenticeship, takes upon himself the responsibilities of manhood, and begins life in earnest; while in the middle-class, the merchant's son expects to receive at the hands of his family the necessary means of maintaining a position in the commercial world, and from his connections such offers of assistance as he may have merited by his past conduct towards them. In fact, "coming of age" is made a kind of starting-point among all classes, and fortunate is he who at that period of his life can give assurance that the advantages he inherits or the benefits he receives will be put to good account in the future.

It is not, however, of an individual that we have taken occasion to record the majority, but of an institution, in the welfare of which the readers of this magazine cannot but take a deep interest, and one, moreover, which promises to well repay its guardians for any kindly assistance that may be rendered at this critical period of its existence.

The Lamb and Flag Ragged School was born in one of the poorest and most densely populated districts of the ancient parish of Clerkenwell, at a period when the calls of charity were fewer than at present, and when those who were able and willing to contribute to its support lived in the immediate vicinity. Railway and other improvements have unfortunately driven away many of its most liberal patrons, and it now stands isolated from the many friendly influences which at one time seemed to promise an insurance of continued prosperity. Notwithstanding this serious impediment to its healthy development, few similar institutions can boast a youth of greater usefulness, or present stronger claims to the consideration of earnest well-wishers to the Ragged School movement. Being surrounded by a population dwelling in hovels of the worst description, where examples of decency, temperance, and religion are not set before the young, there has never been any difficulty in obtaining that class of scholars of both sexes for which the Ragged School was intended, but the beneficial influence which has resulted from its establishment is now so well-known in the neighbourhood, that the poor bring their children, as a matter of course, to receive the education which the school affords rather than profit by the vagrancy upon which they formerly depended for eking out their scanty income.

Through all the stages of its early infancy the Lamb and Flag never exhibited those symptoms of weakness which often attend the establishment of similar institutions. Beginning with a Day School for Boys, Girls, and Infants, and a Sunday School (morning, afternoon, and evening), it was soon deemed advisable to afford tuition to elder children, who were employed during the

day, and for this purpose the school-room was opened on Monday and Wednesday evenings. This arrangement had the effect of keeping a class of scholars under instruction who would probably have otherwise spent their leisure hours in the streets. Having thus endeavoured to include the youth of all ages in the plan of operation, an attempt was next made to reach other members of the poor families in the neighbourhood, and this object was successfully accomplished by holding "Mothers' Meetings," for devotional exercise and the interchange of mutual sympathy and matronly advice. To assist the parents of the children, a Clothing Fund was made another feature of the institution, a bonus of 25 per cent. being added to the amount subscribed; also a Maternity and Sick Charity, and a Penny Savings Bank, besides the delivery of free lectures in the school-room on Tuesday evenings.

It will be seen, therefore, that the Lamb and Flag has not reached the age of twenty-one without acquiring a fully developed constitution, capable of doing good service in the cause of philanthropy, and its guardians are now naturally anxious that the fostering care already bestowed upon it may not be rendered fruitless by the want of the necessary means for placing it in a position of permanent stability.

To accomplish this purpose, the Committee respectfully yet urgently appeal for assistance. To liquidate the building debt, a sum of £110 is required. Towards this amount the Ragged School Union have kindly offered to contribute £40, and £10 has also been promised by a liberal friend of the institution, leaving but £60 to be made up from other sources. As one of the oldest Ragged Schools in existence, the Lamb and Flag possesses a special claim to the consideration of those who take an interest in the welfare of the movement; while as a present means of affording instruction to the children of a numerous class of poverty-ridden creatures, and relieving the immediate necessities of those who have no power to help themselves, it affords a favourable opportunity for the exercise of that charity which forms an essential part of the national character.

It is surprising how much may sometimes be done with a little effort, if it be rightly directed. Let us suppose, for instance, that every reader of this magazine were to ask a contribution, however small, from a few private friends—no one could be offended at such charitable solicitation—and the result would be that an institution, now crippled for want of means, would be able, not only to satisfy the immediate demands upon its resources, but to liquidate a debt which has hung for years as a dead weight upon its operations.

In order to afford our readers an opportunity of carrying the suggestion into effect, we refer them to the advertisement for the names and addresses of the friends to whom contributions, specially for this school, may be sent, or to Mr. Gent, No. 1, Exeter Hall.

CHINESE RAGGED SCHOOL AT SINGAPORE.

This school was opened on the 6th of March, 1865, and of which Miss Cook writes:—

"I am truly glad to be able to send a cheering report of the above, which has now been working for three months and a half. Twenty-five children are now on our books, and twenty attend pretty regularly. The seven who first came are seldom absent, and now begin to read very nicely in the 'Peep of Day' in Malay. They begin to write very nicely, too, and know a great deal from Scripture tales being told them, and all seem to understand that the Lord Jesus is the best friend of little children. Miss Houstone labours very zealously amongst them: she is a capital teacher, just the person I needed, and I value her services very much. She appears to be very happy in her work, and I think her health is improving. Our number of children will appear very small to our friends at home, who, on opening a Ragged School, see hundreds flocking in at once; but it must be remembered that we have the strongholds of idolatry to contend with, so that I believe for one child in Singapore you may count twenty in England. Besides, our little school is in the midst of the most difficult tribes of the Chinese, and, considering all things, I can only feel that the Lord has wonderfully blessed and prospered us. The Chinese around seem to begin to like us and the school, so that I really hope in time it may prove a great success and blessing. Once a week Mrs. Hewitson, my district visitor, assists me in distributing tracts and in visiting the people, and Anleang and Kaychai meet us in the school-house, where we hold our Mothers' Meeting. Sometimes eight or nine women come, when Anleang or Kaychai prays with them and explains the Scriptures to them; but often no one comes; then we four join in prayer that the Holy Spirit may be poured out on them, so that they may care more for their souls. One very nice girl, who attends the school constantly, teaches her little sister at home, who is for the present afraid to come to school; indeed, we have a most interesting set of children, though, now they have settled down, there are no anecdotes to relate.

"Miss Houstone carries out the infant school system, which is very taking amongst the Chinese. We give one meal in the day to the children, and clothes where they are really needed. We find our school-house is not large enough for the school and the residence of one of the Christian families, so we are obliged to have a man to take care of the house."—*Female Missionary Intelligence.*

THE PAST AND THE PRESENT;

OR, THE

RESULT OF ELEVEN YEARS' SCHOOL EFFORT.

The following interesting particulars are received from the Superintendent of a Ragged School in the North of London:—

"The fact I mentioned to you in regard to our Night School was as follows:—Eleven years ago, when I first entered our Night School, which was then a scene of confusion and uproar, I found Mr. L——, the Scripture-reader, who was acting as superintendent, taking down the names of the lads, with the view of ascertaining how many had been in prison. The result, he told me, was, that nearly every one had been once or oftener. This season I looked

over our Night School for the same purpose—there were forty-one present—and found that out of that number only two had been in prison—one for fighting, the other for stealing. Now the lads this season were precisely the same kind as those we had eleven years ago—bricklayers' labourers—from the same courts, and in some cases from the same families. But the lads we have now have nearly all passed through our Day School, and it is somewhat gratifying to see that, if these lads are not savingly converted, they are improved in a moral point of view. The lad who had been in prison for stealing had never been at our Day School, the other had."

AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE.

DURING the last three years a Ragged Church has been conducted on Sunday evenings, in the Great Queen Street Refuge, by three gentlemen who are members of the Committee of the Ragged School Union. The mode of conducting the worship is somewhat different from the ordinary mode adopted at such services. In this case the congregation is expected to take part, by reading collectively the alternate verse of the Bible version of the Psalms selected for the evening. The regular attendants at this service are of course well known, and once in the year they are invited to spend a happy evening together, and to partake of the hospitality of the friends conducting the service. The last of these annual gatherings was held on Friday, January 12th, when 108 persons were present as guests for the evening. These poor people, when met for worship, noticed the Bible used by the conductor was small and old, and resolved at their own expense to provide one more suitable for the service and the occasion. To provide the fund needful for procuring such a Bible as they would like to see used was quite beyond their means, but, having the will, they found the way, by putting into a common fund the farthings, halfpence, and pennies that they could spare, and by doing this weekly the requisite sum was, in course of time, realized. The treasurer for the time being was Mr. Wood, the able superintendent of the Refuge. It would appear that no one but Mr. Wood knew of the purpose of these poor people, nor was it made apparent till on the evening of the last annual gathering, when two of the conductors of the services (the third friend was unavoidably absent) were a little startled to find there was to be something imported into the evening's programme of which they were not cognizant, but which was made apparent by a deputation, representing the body of the worshippers, making their way through the crowd, carrying a handsomely-bound Bible, which was presented in the name of the whole body to the three gentlemen who conduct the services, and for the future use of those services. The following is the inscription on the Bible, as worded by the people themselves:—

"TO MESSRS. BROOKER, CROSS, AND HARRIS,

This Bible is most gratefully and affectionately presented by a few humble subscribers, who have long received the benefit of your moral and religious instruction; and who earnestly pray the Almighty to grant you each a long

and happy life, so that you may be enabled to continue your exertions with the same success."

There were a considerable number of the friends and teachers of the Refuge present, some of whom embraced the opportunity furnished by this presentation to say a few words of kindly counsel and instruction, after which Dr. Cross and Mr. Brooker acknowledged the kind and proper feeling indicated by the presentation, and the proceedings of the happy evening were brought to a close.

CRIME GARDENS.

MANY of our readers may be aware that under the auspices of the Evangelical Alliance a series of united prayer-meetings was held during the week beginning January 8, in the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street. At these meetings short addresses were given to those present. On the first day the burden of prayer to the Throne of Grace was, *for the Divine blessing to rest upon the labours of evangelists among the untaught and degraded masses of London.* Another object of that day's meetings was to receive statements from those who were engaged in the work, in reference to its nature, prospects, and encouragements. During the first day's meetings the following statement was made by a Ragged School teacher, Mr. G. Holland, of the George Yard Ragged School, Whitechapel, and which we commend to the thoughtful consideration of our friends and workers:—He said that he had now for some years been labouring in the district of Whitechapel, and he desired to speak very gratefully of the Divine goodness, which had never left him, amid opposition, sorrow, and trial. If he rightly understood the object of the present meeting, it was that many might be induced to engage in the work of the Lord. If the history of London were truly read out to them, their hearts would bleed, and their cry would be, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Deep was their responsibility in reference to those who lived in back lanes, and in courts within courts of this great city. If they would take up the work of visiting these they would meet with more encouragement than opposition, and they need have no fear of entering the worst of places. His work had been in George Yard, among a class of persons for whom no one seemed to care. From out of this class, however, the Church of God had been enriched, and five hundred drunkards alone had been saved. In one church alone he could reckon one hundred and twenty who had been saved from a drunkard's life and grave. If any one wanted to weep real tears in view of human suffering, he need not go to the theatre; if he would journey eastward he would see an awfully real drama being enacted, and one that would summon forth the truest tears and prayers. In one district of Whitechapel, not so large as Russell Square, there were 635 houses, peopled by 7,496 persons. There were 1,780 children, 1,350 of whom attend no school. There are twenty-one houses open for drinking. It is a region of Jews and Roman Catholics. Out of the 800 children in their schools at least one-third were Roman Catholics. But he could say that he had never received an insult from these Roman Catholic families. They took in Bibles and tracts, and any one might work amongst them who went with the plain Gospel

in his hands, and who did not immediately commence attacking their errors and quarreling with them. There was another district, about a quarter of a mile square, in which there were 6,165 houses, 25,000 families, and nearly 70,000 individuals. To meet the wants of these there were six churches, one large chapel, and one small one, four mission-rooms, and eighteen day and Sunday Schools. In one street alone of this district there were no less than twenty-four houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drinks. Here, then, was a field for any one who wanted to work for God, and an earnest appeal was made to all present to devote the best of their days to Christ's service.

THE DEAD SHOE-BLACK.

THE following is part of a quarterly statement of the Whetstone Park Ragged School, made when applying for the quarterly grant voted by the Ragged School Union Committee:—

"Since the last report eleven boys have been placed in the Red Shoe-black Society. There are sixteen *now* in from this school, of whom seven are fatherless, and four motherless. They are all conducting themselves well, and are much improved in their condition. Some have received prizes in money and medals.

"Two lads, who had been in the Society, have been placed in good situations from this school—one receiving twelve shillings weekly, and the other ten shillings.

"One of our scholars while in the Society has died. He was a parentless, homeless, destitute lad, and obtained a very precarious though honest subsistence by sweeping a crossing—and, at some parts of the year, by selling chickweed and groundsel for birds; also muffins and crumpets in the streets, receiving for himself from the persons who employed him three or four pence for each shilling's-worth he sold. Sometimes he sold cigar-lights at a half-penny a box, or held gentlemen's horses, or opened carriage and cab doors, and, in fact, as he had often said, 'was ready to do anything to earn an honest penny.' To improve his condition, he was placed in the Red Shoe-black Society, and was doing well, obtaining more food, and a change of clothing, and regular nightly shelter out of his earnings. A short time since he became ill and was admitted into the hospital, but his past life of want and nakedness, and exposure to the weather, acting on a weak constitution, hastened his death. He had, at school, long heard and read of the Lord Jesus and his great salvation, in which he took deep interest; and from his changed walk and conversation, which was 'as it becometh the Gospel of Christ,' it was believed by his teacher that he loved and trusted in Jesus, and is now with him.

"His prayers and desires are embodied in the expressive words—

"'Through thy redeeming blood,
Dear Saviour, set us free;
Assisted by thy grace,
O may we live to thee:
And take us, Lord, when we shall die,
To dwell with thee above the sky.'"

The Children's Gallery.

THE BOY OF DUNDEE.

"A youth to fortune and to fame unknown."

During a journey in Scotland, a gentleman near Dundee, of undoubted truth, states that his sister, on going to visit a poor woman in an obscure part of the town, was directed by mistake to the lodging of another person, and, knocking at the door, was desired, in a low female voice, to come in.

On entering the room she found a poor helpless woman on a bed, wasted away by illness, and apparently in a miserable situation, in consequence of a stroke of the palsy she had received five years before; during which period she had been confined to her bed, and rendered incapable of assisting herself.

Her friendly visitor, pitying her condition, was surprised by her answer, "that she thought herself one of the happiest of mortals;" and on desiring an explanation, the poor woman, in simple language, related the following particulars:

That, in the younger part of life, she had been left a widow with an only son, who, when she received the stroke, was twelve years of age; until that time, by spinning and other work, she had been enabled to maintain herself and child, and to pay a trifle for his education. Since that trying dispensation of Providence, confined to her bed, and deprived of the use of her limbs, she had been unable to do anything for herself; and having no money to pay another, her son, at that early age, trusting to the Divine blessing, took the noble resolution, by the labour of his own hands to relieve the wants and distresses of his afflicted parent. A female neighbour occasionally called in to perform some kind offices; but her chief comfort and support arose from the filial affection and constant attention of her son. He immediately procured such work as his early years admitted of, in a manufactory at Dundee; and, after cleaning the room in which they dwelt, getting ready their breakfast, and making his mother comfortable for the day, he left her every morning with a smiling countenance, to attend the labours of the day, and returned in the evening, with his small but well-earned wages, to enjoy a cheerful meal with his beloved parent. And thus, for the space of five years, have the revolving days succeeded each other.

But this is not all. His mother could not read. The child, by his diligence, had learned to read; he had not, indeed, read in large and learned books, but he had read the sacred Scriptures, and knew the truth as it is in Jesus; he had tasted the spiritual bread, and drawn water from the wells of salvation. In the midst of seeming poverty he had found true riches; and although surrounded by outward distress, he had a heartfelt experience that the ways of religion are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

Reflecting, therefore, on the many hours he was under the necessity of leaving his mother alone and unemployed, and desirous that she should also enjoy the superior blessing he enjoyed from his religious knowledge, he resolved to teach her to read, and in due time accomplished the pleasing task; affording by this means a means of comfort—an inexhaustible source of delight, which she confessed had made her the happiest of women. It pleased the Almighty to open her heart, that, like Lydia, she might attend to the things that were spoken, and, with Mary, sit down at her Saviour's feet and hear his word. She added, that during her son's absence, it was her delight to meditate on the sacred volume whose Divine truths had

filled her soul with humble hope and holy joy, and afforded her that peace which the world can neither give nor take away. And this being conveyed to her mind by a beloved child, added those delightful sensations, which only a parent's heart can know, to all its other delights.

Such is my little history of the Dundee boy: had I known it when I passed through that town, I would have been more particular. My friend did not inform me whether the mother was allowed anything from a collection made for the distressed every Sabbath in the church; but it is probable she might receive some assistance from a charitable fund, to which rich and poor people contribute according to the means which God has given them.

May Almighty God bless all the dear children who read this, and make them as kind as the boy of Dundee!

THE MISSIONARY VIOLETS.

"MAMMA!" said Lottie Gill, "I should like to do something very much, if you think it is right."

"Let me know, darling, and I will decide for you," answered Mrs. Gill, as she fondly passed her hand over Lottie's curly head.

"There is a woman out there with a tray of flowers for sale, and I should like to buy a bunch for the two pennies you gave me this morning; I'd rather have the flowers than sweetmeats, and she has two penny bunches."

The request was granted, and Lottie glided quickly from the room. In a few minutes she returned, bringing a bunch of fresh violets to her mother.

"Do look at the little beauties, mamma," she said; "they are just like those I gathered last spring in the wood behind grandpa's house. Oh, there were so many growing there! One morning I asked grandpa when he had planted them all, and he told me *he* had not put one of them there. Then he pointed to a little bird that was singing on a branch above us, and he asked if I could tell him who had taught that little bird to sing so sweetly. I told him God had. He smiled as he said, 'My little girl, all these trees, and the little flowers which bloom under them, were placed here by God—the same God of Love.' I thought of what grandpa told me as soon as I saw these violets. And now, mamma, if you please, I am going to make little missionaries of them."

"How so, Lottie?"

"You remember, mamma, you are going to take me with you to-day to see poor Emily Drew; and I will give her these, for I think they will make her happy. You know she has no flowers; every one of them seems to be speaking to me of God, who gave them to us; and I want them to talk to her, too!"

"You have given me great pleasure, my child, to know that you remember to practise what you have learned. I know the sick girl will be very grateful for your kindness, for she loves flowers."

"Do you think, mamma, it will be too little to give any one? You see it is only a bunch of violets!"

"True, Lottie, but they were not too small for God to give them a place where they might spring up, and bud and blossom; and you can see at this moment that they are praising Him who made them, by leading our thoughts to him."

"That is a pleasant thought, mamma; and the sick girl will be made happy, too, by having them. Why, they have been real little missionaries ever since I bought them; for I am sure they preached to me, though they are only sweet little violets."

HOW TO HELP THE SICK.

I WOULD make a few remarks that may help you, if you are disposed to add to your qualifications, to soothe the afflicted. If ever you are called to attend a sick-bed, be sure to manifest *kindness;* without this quality others will lose much of their value. Be tender, not only with your hands, but with your tongue; tenderness of heart is quite necessary. Be

sure to exercise *patience;* if you cannot do this you are not fit to attend the sick. *Forbearance*, too, is a great virtue. Sick people are often fretful and trying, and require to be borne with. *Cleanliness* is essential: a dirty cup, a bit of coal on the toast, or a hand begrimed with dirt, is enough to turn the stomach of an invalid. *Expertness* and *promptitude* are of great value, that the wants of the invalid may be supplied without delay. *Thoughtfulness* must be practised, that you may anticipate what will be required; and *watchfulness*, that you may know when to be of service. Be *sober*, as beseemeth an attendant on the sick; but be also cheerful. *Cheerfulness* is as good as medicine to the afflicted. *Firmness* and *prudence* are qualities that may at times be put to good account; and if in addition to those I have mentioned you have *sincere and lively piety*, ever desiring to keep the eye, the heart, and the hope of the sufferer fixed on the great Physician, the Healer of the soul's leprosy, as well as the body's ailments—why then your attentions may indeed do good; they may be the means of benefiting both body and soul.

And think not that you can benefit the sick without doing a service to yourself. You may learn many a lesson in a sick chamber that would never have been taught you in other places. "It is better," on many accounts, "to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting." We learn more of the world's hollowness in an hour under the roof of sorrow than in a life spent in the habitation of joy. To witness sanctified affliction is a high privilege, for we then see that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." The writer has attended the sick, both in the noontide and the midnight hour. The desponding sigh, the weary moans, and the groans of agony, are familiar to him. He has marked the changes from the first attack of sickness to the death gasp that ended the mortal strife; the declining strength; the labouring pulse; the glazed eye; the throat-rattle; and the fallen jaw. He has closed the eyelids of youth and of age; and having felt, painfully felt, his own deficiencies as an attendant on the sick, he the more anxiously urges on others the duty of qualifying themselves to soothe the sorrows of the afflicted, and to smooth the bed of death; and would conclude by asking, Cannot we all do something to help the many sick families connected with our Ragged Schools?

Notice of Meeting.

NEW CUT RAGGED SCHOOLS, ROBERT STREET, LAMBETH—PRESENTATION TO MR. DALLEN.

At the nineteenth annual meeting held in the school-rooms, on December 19th, the Rev. William Curling, M.A., presided. The Honorary Secretary, Mr. John Dallen, read the report, which was of a very encouraging nature, and from which the following particulars are extracted:—About 1,000 children have passed through the schools during the year. Average daily attendance—boys, 125; girls, 150. Evening—boys, 38; girls, 22. Gone to pay schools—boys, 45; girls, 56. Obtained situations—boys, 18; girls, 40: 70 boys have entered the Shoe-black Society. Sabbath Schools, afternoon average attendance—14 teachers, 133

scholars; good attendance at prayer-meetings, evening—12 teachers, 135 scholars. The adult Bible Class is doing much good; there are many hopeful cases, and some decided. The Mothers' Meetings are a valuable auxiliary, and have been the means of reforming many dissolute and wretched women. The Clothing Club continues to prosper; 295 articles were made during the year. The Penny Bank is progressing satisfactorily. Number of depositors, 2,920; amount paid in, £1,210 9s. 10d.; balance in hand belonging to depositors last year, £258 16s. 4d.; total, £1,469 6s. 2d. Amount repaid to depositors, £961 10s. 11d. A flower-show was held in August last; and encouraged by the success which attended the first experiment, the Committee have resolved to renew the effort during next summer.

The rev. Chairman then gave a few words of encouragement to those engaged in the schools, and in the name and on behalf of the Committee presented to the Honorary Secretary, Mr. John Dallen, a timepiece, with a suitable inscription engraved upon a solid silver plate, and also an address, written upon vellum, and enclosed in a handsome gilt frame, and of which the following is a copy:—

"To Mr. John Dallen.

"Dear Sir,—We, the undersigned, being the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Committee, and Officers of the New Cut Ragged Schools, while expressing devout gratitude to Almighty God for the favours he has conferred upon this institution, desire to acknowledge that its present improved condition is mainly due to your untiring energy, perseverance, and self-denial, in discharging the duties of Honorary Secretary for the last seven years.

"Whilst fully sensible of our inability to make compensation for the vast amount of time and labour which you have, amidst many discouragements, so willingly devoted to the affairs of the schools, and conscious of the fact that you seek a reward infinitely greater than any which your fellow-men can bestow, still we feel constrained to offer you a small token of personal esteem, which may serve to show that your valuable and gratuitous services are not entirely forgotten.

"Permit us, therefore, to beg your acceptance of the accompanying timepiece, with our earnest desire for the continued health and prosperity of yourself and family, and our fervent prayers that you may long be spared to work in the cause of Ragged Schools.

We remain, dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

President—Edward Grove. Vice-President—Robert Robinson. Treasurer—Edward Bridgman. Committee—John Terry, William Harland, Thomas Charles Durrant, William Fountain, Joseph Pepper, William Passingham, John Rathbone Taylor, T. G. Payne, J. J. Tyson, Frederick Cole, E. Price, T. and M. Dowling, Esther Evans, Jane Howard Brown, Elizabeth Scott, M. S. Bailey, E. Kellick, E. S. Evans, James Nelson. Schoolmaster—Hawkins Way. Schoolmistress—Louisa Copelin.

"December 19th, 1865."

Mr. Dallen feelingly acknowledged the gift.

The meeting was afterwards addressed by T. J. Croggon, Esq.; Mr. G. M. Murphy; the Rev. J. Hiles Hitchens, of Peckham Rye, and Rev. J. Amos.

The rev. Chairman pronounced the Benediction.

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

ESTABLISHED FOR THE SUPPORT OF

FREE SCHOOLS FOR THE DESTITUTE POOR.

The following contributions have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union from the 20th of December, 1865, to the 19th of January, 1866, inclusive :—

LEGACIES.

	£	s.	d.
Frankham, Miss Susan, Legacy of the late; per James Lee, Esq., J. F. Lee, Esq., and F. Lee, Esq.	19	19	6
Hatred, Mr. John, Legacy of the late; per Miss E. Currie and Miss E. A. Jones, Executrices, duty free; £100, less expenses, £8 2 11	91	17	1
White, Mrs. Martha Eliza, Legacy of the late; per Henry Hopley White, Esq., Executor	10	0	0

CONTRIBUTIONS.

General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
A. B.	5	0	0
Agnew, Miss M. A.	2	2	0
Aldrich, Capt.	0	5	0
Anonymous	2	0	0
Arden, Hon. Miss	5	0	0
Arnold, Mrs.	1	0	0
Arcot, Miss	1	1	0
Austin, Mrs. Henry	1	1	0
Bacchus, Miss Constance	1	10	0
Ballance, Henry, Esq.	2	2	0
Balmain, Miss	1	1	0
Bax, Edward, Esq.	1	1	0
Bennington, Mrs.	1	1	0
Bowcher, Miss	0	10	6
Bowcher, Miss L.	0	10	0
Bowles, Admiral Sir W.	10	0	0
Bradbridge, Miss	1	1	0
Bricknell, Miss	0	10	0
Bridge, Mr., Children of	0	5	0
Briscoe, J. I., Esq., M.P.	10	0	0
Brown, Mr. R. J., and Brothers	1	9	6
Brown, Miss, col. by—			
Brown, The Misses	0	12	6
Brown, Miss	0	5	0
Brown, Mrs.	0	5	0
Ptill, Mrs.	0	2	6
Church, Miss	0	2	0
Buffett, Miss	0	10	0
Burgess, Mrs.	2	2	0
Burrows, Mr., per Miss Bodkin	1	1	0
Burton, Miss	0	2	6
Bury, Rev. W.	1	1	0
Buxton, Sir T. F., Bart.	10	0	0
Campbell, A. H., Esq.	10	10	0
Campbell, J. T., Esq.	5	0	0
Carthew, P., Esq.	5	0	0
Chandler, Mrs.	0	10	0
Chandless, H., Esq.	5	0	0
Challis, J. H., Esq.	10	0	0
Clarke, R. G., Esq.	0	5	0
Clarke, Mrs.	0	5	0
Clowes, Miss	0	10	6
Cowper, H., Esq.	5	5	0
Cooper, Rev. James	1	1	0
Craig, Mrs.	0	10	0
Dickens, Master B.	0	11	0
Ditmas, per Mrs.—			
Ditmas, Miss Maria (box)	0	13	8
Ditmas, Miss S. V. (box)	0	16	7
Thomas, Miss F.	0	10	0
Moore, Miss	0	2	6
Veasy, W. W., Esq.	0	5	0
Carter, Mr.	0	5	0
Peele, Mr. and Mrs.	3	0	0
Moore, Miss	0	2	6
Redpath, Mrs.	0	2	6
Clunie, Mrs.	0	5	0
Humphreys, Miss (box)	0	3	6
Ditmas, Mrs. F.	0	4	0
Douglas, James, Esq.	1	0	0
Douglas, Mrs.	2	0	0
Eaton Chapel, per Rev. Samuel Minton	8	0	0
E. C.	1	0	0
Emlyn, Mr. W. O.	0	10	0
E. P., per Mrs. Benyon	0	10	0
Eyre, H. R., Esq.	1	1	0
Fawcett, Mr. and Mrs. H. H.	2	0	0
Fawcett, Mr. and Mrs. J. B.	1	5	0
Fisher, Mrs.	2	2	0
Flower, Mrs.	1	0	0
Frankham, Miss	1	1	0
Gellibrand, W. C., Esq.	5	0	0
Gent, Mr. J. G.	1	1	0
Grafton, His Grace the Duke of	10	0	0
Greenwood, Mrs.	1	1	0
Grey, Mrs.	1	0	0
Groom, J., Esq.	1	1	0
Haddield, per Miss— Cooper, the late Jas., Esq.	5	0	0
Roberts, Mrs. Cecil	0	5	0
Hancock, Mrs.	2	2	0
Hansler, Mrs.	0	10	0
Hardy, Mr. George	0	10	0
Heales, Miss	1	1	0
Heathcote, J. Moyer, Esq.	5	0	0
Helder, Miss Louisa	1	0	0
Hofland, Mrs.	0	5	0
Hooker, J. D., Esq.	1	1	0
Howard, Lady Mary	1	1	0
Holdship, J., Esq.	1	1	0
Hughes, Miss Dora	3	5	0
Hunter, Mrs.	1	1	0
H. W.	10	0	0
Jervoise, Masters W. & J.	2	0	0
J. M.	1	1	0
Kemble, Mrs. V.	10	0	0
Kenworthy, Miss	1	0	0
King, Bolton, Esq.	2	0	0
Langdon, A., Esq.	0	5	0
Locke, Wm., Esq.	1	1	0
Loraine, Miss	10	0	0
Lush, Mrs. George	1	0	0
Mackenzie, Mrs.	2	2	0
Mackin, Master (box)	2	3	0
Maden, The Misses	2	2	0
Maitland, Miss	0	1	0
Manning, J., Esq.	1	1	0
Marcon, Miss C. B.	1	1	0
Marsh, John, Esq.	1	0	0
Martin, W. H., Esq.	5	0	0
Mills, M., Esq.	10	0	0
Martin, Lady	15	0	0
Morgan, Mrs.	1	0	0
Morse, F., Esq.	5	0	0
Morrieson, Lieut.-Col. J.	1	0	0
Newcome, Mrs.	1	10	0
Norman, Rev. C., and Mrs.	5	0	0
Padday, Mrs.	1	0	0
Parnell, Miss	1	1	0
Passmore, Miss	1	1	0
Pearson, The Misses	5	0	0
Peart, Miss	2	0	0
Pelham, Hon. Mrs. F.	1	0	0
Perfect, R., Esq.	5	0	0
Pole, Major Mundy	5	0	0
Portal, Miss	50	0	0
Porter, Miss F.	1	1	0
Prior, Miss E.	2	0	0
Quicke, Mrs. N.	4	0	0
Reade, Mrs., col. by— Davis, Mrs.	0	10	0
Shaddack, Mrs.	1	1	0
Sutton, Mrs.	1	1	0
Mackness, Mrs.	0	7	6
Reade, Mrs.	0	10	0
Rew, The Misses	1	0	0
Reynardson, Miss E. N. Birch	1	1	0
Roberts, Mrs., and the Misses	1	1	0
Robertson, W., Esq.	5	0	0
R. W.	0	10	0
Salt & Co., Messrs. T.	2	2	0
Sawyer, E.W., Esq., col.	4	10	0
S. E.	5	0	0
Secretan, Miss L. C. (2 years)	2	0	0
Seymour, H. D., Esq.	2	2	0
Seymour, H. H., Esq.	5	5	0
Sharpe, Mrs.	0	5	0
Sloan, Mrs.	1	0	0
Smithers, H. W., Esq.	1	1	0
S. M. R.	2	0	0
Soutter, The Misses	2	0	0
Sowler, Miss	2	2	0
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Stericker, W., Esq.	5	5	0
Stokes, Miss M.	0	10	6
Strong, Miss A. P.	1	1	0
Sweeting, C., Esq.	1	1	0
Swanston, George, Esq.	5	0	0
Tattersall, J., Esq.	1	1	0
Teesdale, Miss	1	1	0
Tite, Mrs.	1	1	0
Vere, S., Esq.	25	0	0
Webb, Henry, Esq.	3	0	0
Weston, Miss	5	0	0
Wigram, Edward, Esq.	10	0	0
Wigram, Rev. F. E.	1	1	0
Wilson, A., Esq.	5	0	0

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